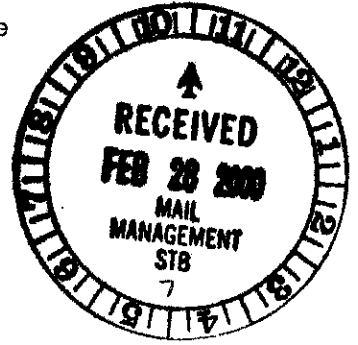




Industrial Storage Warehouse Corporation

Warehouse with Crane and Forklift Handling Service
for Heavy Equipment, Steel, Lumber, and all Merchandise

4343 W. Ohio Street Chicago, Illinois 60624
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February 25, 2000

Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit, Att: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K St., N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

Part of
Public Record

Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is Richard Stowers, and I am President of Industrial Storage Warehouse Corporation, Chicago, IL. Industrial Storage Warehouse is a major rail to truck transload operation in Chicago handling a cross section of commodities such as steel, lumber and panel products. Industrial Storage Warehouse receives substantial quantities of these products by rail from virtually every region in North America and distributes these products in the greater Chicago area.

We support the STB's decision in the BNSF/CN docket to examine carefully the BNSF/CN proposed control application, including all of the effects it could have on the rail transportation industry. The Board should not look at the BNSF/CN transaction in a vacuum. It should consider the effects that further mergers and consolidations in the rail industry will have on shippers.

Any major rail consolidation now or in the immediate future would be extremely unfortunate. The rail industry is still adjusting to the effects of the last round of mergers which began with the Burlington Northern's purchase of the Santa Fe. Not all of the benefits of those mergers have been realized or accomplished yet. The industry needs to stabilize and improve its overall operations before further consolidations are undertaken.

Merger implementation is obviously a multi-year process that consumes attention and resources of the merging railroads' management. My company has worked through the disruption to rail service that has followed these mergers. The shipper community deserves and has earned a period of stability in the rail industry while the railroads concentrate on completing the integration and delivering all the benefits we expected from the prior mergers that the STB has approved.

We ask that the STB, due to the reasons outlined above, carefully examine the long-term impact on the railroad industry and not allow this merger to be implemented.

Sincerely,
Industrial Storage Warehouse Corp.

Richard Stowers,
President